

# Undergraduate Catalog of Courses

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## Anthropology

Saint Mary's College of California

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## ANTHROPOLOGY

At the intersection of biological science, humanities and social science, anthropology brings a social, cross-cultural, historical, and multi-ethnic dimension to the liberal arts curriculum. Anthropology provides students with a theoretical and analytical framework with which to function in an increasingly global, complex and interdependent world.

Fundamental to anthropology is the experience of conducting field work. Living with and studying in cultures around the world, anthropologists seek to discover universals as well as document differences among human groups. Department faculty members have done field work in Italy, Polynesia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala, China, the Philippines, and the United States.

Anthropology's subject matter ranges from pre-history to the study of contemporary cultures in the United States and throughout the world. Our faculty's expertise includes household archaeology, maritime archaeology, indigenous rights, museum studies, urbanization, gender, globalization, religion, virtual societies, identity, immigration, colonialism and post-colonial society. Because it teaches us about other people's lives, traditions and values, anthropology prepares us to understand and appreciate our own multicultural society.

American anthropology comprises four sub-disciplines: cultural anthropology, archaeology; physical anthropology and linguistics. Our program emphasizes the holistic attributes of traditional anthropology as well as a commitment to the application of anthropological insights to contemporary social issues such as human rights, cultural resource management, and political and economic injustices.

The cross-cultural nature of the anthropology major develops research and analytical skills well-suited to students interested in careers in both international and domestic business, teaching at all levels, public and mental health, counseling, social work, international non-profit agencies, law and law enforcement, museum curatorship, and archaeological and anthropological research.

Students can take advantage of the exchange course program to enroll in anthropology and archaeology courses at the University of California, Berkeley, as well as Mills College and California State University East Bay at Hayward. The department offers a field placement/internship program with neighboring institutions such as social service agencies and businesses. Students are encouraged to study a foreign language and to study abroad. The chair can advise students on suggested programs.

### FACULTY

**Paola Sensi-Isolani, Ph.D.,** *Professor, Chair*

**Cynthia Van Gilder, Ph.D.,** *Associate Professor*

**James Allan, Ph.D.,** *Lecturer*

**Dana Herrera, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor*

**Jennifer Heung, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor*

**Lynn M. Meisch, Ph.D.,** *Professor*

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

*When students have completed the anthropology program they will be able to:*

- **APPRECIATE** the great diversity of human cultures and the inter-relatedness of economic, socio-political and religious systems.
- **APPROACH** cultural diversity with thoughtfulness and sensitivity.
- **EXAMINE** their own lives in social and cultural context and assess how their lives are affected by the specific time and place in which they live.
- **UNDERSTAND** anthropological theory and methods and how they are applicable in and beyond academia.
- **EMPLOY** critical reading, thinking, and writing skills that will allow them to understand and meaningfully contribute to an increasingly complex, multicultural, and interdependent world.
- **EXPRESS** themselves with confidence and clarity in both written and oral communication.
- **WORK INDEPENDENTLY** collecting and analyzing primary and secondary data, producing research papers in accordance with the ethical and professional standards of the American Anthropological Association.

## Curriculum Anthropology

### MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The anthropology major comprises 13 lower- and upper-division courses. Students have the choice of majoring in anthropology or anthropology with an archaeology concentration.

A grade of C- for coursework is required to count toward the major or minor. In addition, the minimum acceptable grade is C for the capstone courses Anthropology 130: Anthropological Theory and Anthropology 132: Research Methods.

### LOWER-DIVISION COURSES FOR BOTH ANTHROPOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY WITH AN ARCHAEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Anthropology 1 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology  
Anthropology 5 Introduction to Archaeology  
Biology 7 Introduction to Biological Anthropology (course description is included in Biology listings)

### UPPER-DIVISION COURSES FOR ANTHROPOLOGY

- I. Anthropology 121 World Cultures  
Anthropology 130 Anthropological Theory  
Anthropology 132 Research Methods
- II. Seven additional upper-division courses, five of which must be anthropology courses, two of which may be anthropology or sociology courses.

### UPPER-DIVISION COURSES FOR ANTHROPOLOGY WITH ARCHAEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

- I. Anthropology 121 World Cultures  
Anthropology 126 Field Experience  
Anthropology 129 Prehistoric Archaeology  
Anthropology 130 Anthropological Theory  
Anthropology 132 Research Methods
- II. Five additional upper-division anthropology courses, one of which must be an archaeology course.

### MINOR REQUIREMENTS

A grade of C- is required for coursework to count toward the minor.

#### ANTHROPOLOGY

The minor in anthropology requires two lower-division courses (Anthropology 1: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology, and either Anthropology 5: Introduction to Archaeology or Biology 7 Biological Anthropology), and four upper-division anthropology courses of the student's choosing.

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

The archaeology minor requires three lower-division courses (Anthropology 1: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology 5: Introduction to Archaeology, Biology 7: Introduction to Biological Anthropology) and three upper-division anthropology courses. One of these courses must be Anthropology 129: World Prehistory; a second must be an upper-division archaeology course; the third may be any upper-division anthropology course.

#### ETHNIC STUDIES

The Anthropology Department offers a minor in ethnic studies. The minor allows a focus on two of the under-represented ethnic groups in the United States, provides theoretical background on issues of ethnicity, and is interdisciplinary in nature. The minor requires the following courses: Anthropology 1 or Sociology 2, and Sociology or Anthropology 112; two courses from Anthropology 119, Anthropology or Sociology 123 (courses may be repeated for credit as content varies); either Sociology 116 or History 136; Politics 110, and one upper-division course in History, English, or Modern Languages that covers either of the two ethnic groups which are a part of a student's focus, i.e., English 153, 154; Spanish 150; History 140, 141; Psychology 7, 165.

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## C O U R S E S

### LOWER DIVISION

#### 1 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology

A study of the nature of culture and diversity of societies. This course, which focuses on cultures in Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Americas, introduces the beginning student to some of the main areas of anthropology: kinship, gender, the world system, fieldwork, magic and religion, social change, and the political system of societies throughout the world.

#### 5 Introduction to Archaeology

Students are introduced to the ancient cultures of the world that existed before written records (i.e., prehistory). Cultures from every world area are studied, including the Aztec Empire, Mycenaean Greece, Mesopotamia, the Celts, and the Inca Empire. Additionally, students gain an understanding of the methods and theories of contemporary archaeology through lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities. (Please note: Students are encouraged to enroll in Anth 7, but it is NOT required.)

#### 7 Conservation of Archeological Materials (.25)

Students work in our archaeology lab with various artifact collections. Students sort and catalogue, analyze various classes of artifacts to identify manufacturing techniques, temporal characteristics and cultural affiliations. Basic conservation methodology is also introduced.

## UPPER DIVISION

All upper-division courses have a prerequisite of any one of the following lower-division anthropology or sociology courses. These courses include

**Anthropology 1: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology**, and **Anthropology 5: Introduction to Archaeology** or consent of instructor.

### 111 Kinship, Marriage, and Family

For more than one century anthropological research has focused on households, kinship relations and families across cultures and through time. This course provides students with a historical and theoretical perspective on the anthropological study of kinship, focusing also on various issues that directly relate to the state of marriage and family throughout the world.

### 112 Race and Ethnicity

An examination of the major theoretical underpinnings of "race" and "ethnicity" as negotiated identities. Race as a culturally constructed model is examined in a variety of international geopolitical regions, including the United States.

### 113 Childhood and Society

Focusing on children in Western and non-Western cultures and drawing on ethnographies from cultures around the world, the chronological sequence of childhood from birth to coming of age is followed. Topics include changing notions of childhood, social and gender development, the marking of rites of passage, adolescence, education and the status of children.

### 114 Urban Studies: The Culture of the City

By 2030, two out of three people will live in an urban world, with most of the explosive growth occurring in developing countries. This course in urban anthropology draws from ethnographic cases throughout the developed and developing world. It examines the complex structural and cultural forces that shape the lives of those who dwell in cities by studying how urban culture is produced and reproduced under the influences of industrialization, colonialism, and globalization.

### 117 Religion, Ritual, Magic, and Healing

The course examines religious beliefs, spirituality, and ritual in global cultures. It takes a comparative approach to Western and non-Western beliefs in the supernatural and examines the importance of these beliefs. Topics include shamans and other religious specialists, social functions of ritual acts, faith healing, new religious movements, and the intersection of faith and socio-political forces in the contemporary era.

### 118 Health and Illness

Medical anthropology explores the interaction between health, culture and disease, emphasizing the importance of understanding issues of health and sickness cross-culturally. Medical anthropologists also look at the roles of health care professionals, patients, and medical settings addressing the relationships between health care systems and political and economic systems.

### 119 Native American Cultures

"Native American" is a label applied to all of the indigenous peoples of the Western hemisphere. This course gives students the opportunity to study a subset of Native American cultures in depth. Although the geographic focus of the course rotates, it always includes a discussion of both the traditional lifeways and contemporary social issues of the focus cultures. *May be repeated for credit as content varies.*

### 121 World Cultures

Each World Culture course concentrates on the cultural, historical, political, religious and geographic factors that shape the lives of people living today in a particular area or country, i.e., Central and South America, the Middle East, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, India, China, Polynesia, Western Europe, the Philippines, etc. *May be repeated for credit as content varies.*

### 123 Ethnic Groups in the United States

Each course in this series looks at a different American ethnic groups, i.e. African-American, Filipino-American, Hispanic, Scandinavian, etc. While addressing the past, emphasis is placed on the contemporary period, with each course focusing on the social, cultural and historical experiences of each group. Areas covered are assimilation and resistance, distribution in the social and power structure, family systems and cultural values, labor and migration, role of religion, status of women, etc. *May be repeated for credit as content varies.*

### 125 Gender and Culture

While sex differences are biological, gender encompasses the traits that culture assigns to and inculcates in males and females. This course studies the latter: the interplay between gender and culture. It takes an inclusive and cross-cultural perspective, with a focus on men and women, nonhuman primates, industrial and non-industrial societies and differing cultural contexts such as ethnic group membership and socio-economic status.

### 126 Field Experience

Guided by an anthropology professor of the student's choice, this course provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience conducting anthropological or archaeological analysis in the field. Among other sites, students can select supervised work in archaeological digs, community agencies, government bureaus, museums, and political or industrial organizations.

## Curriculum Anthropology

### **127 Historical Archaeology: Material Culture and Ethnicity**

Historical archaeology is characterized by its use of both written resources and archaeological materials (such as architecture, domestic artifacts, and art) to understand the past. Historical archaeologists have been particularly successful in illuminating the lives of people and groups who did not have the ability to write their own stories in ink, such as enslaved African-Americans, Indians living at California missions, the poor, and women and children. Focusing primarily on the period of time since European exploration and colonization of the world began. *Please note: Successful completion of Anth 5 is recommended, but NOT required.*

### **129 Prehistoric Archaeology: Ancient Cultures**

Ninety-nine percent of human cultural development took place before the advent of written records, and therefore archaeology is the primary source of knowledge of these cultures. This course focuses on the practices of prehistoric people, such as how they made stone tools, decorated cave walls, organized their villages, domesticated plants, and built monuments like Stonehenge. Special attention is given to topics such as gender, kinship, religion, and art. *Please note: Successful completion of Anth 5 is recommended, but NOT required.*

### **130 Anthropological Theory**

Anthropological theory is dynamic; it reflects the social climate of the times and is the product of a gradual accumulation and testing of knowledge and ideas. From the reading of primary texts, this course provides students with an overview of the development of anthropological theory from the late 19th century to the present, pushing students to grapple with fundamental questions about what it means to be a human being and a member of society. Emphasis is placed on explaining what is essential about particular theoretical frameworks, how they can be used, and why they should be studied. Students must have completed Anth 1: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology and Anth 5: Introduction to Archaeology. This course should be taken in the junior or senior year.

### **131 Cultural Geography and Global Societies**

Cultural geography studies the way people shape and give meaning to their environment and allows us to look at the fascinating variety of human activity in the world—the human landscape. Geographic knowledge is vital to understanding national and international issues that dominate daily news reports. This course examines the relevance of geographic methods and concepts to social science topics such as agricultural patterns and practices, ethnic traditions and conflicts, gender, health, migration, political economy, poverty, religion, resource utilization, social change and urban planning.

### **132 Anthropological Research Methods**

The ethnographic method, developed by anthropologists one hundred years ago, is the hallmark of anthropological research. In this course students master specific exercises that represent some of the most commonly used data-collection techniques for ethnographic research. While the major focus will be on qualitative methodology, students are also exposed to quantitative methods such as surveys and focus groups. Students must have completed Anth 1: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology and Anth 5, Introduction to Archaeology. This course should be taken in the junior or senior year.

### **133 Senior Thesis**

Continuation of Research Methods course where honor students undertake individual research, culminating in the senior project. This should be taken in the senior year.

### **135 Special Topics**

Special topics in anthropology include such issues as multiculturalism, criminology, food and culture, visual anthropology, sexuality, popular culture, etc. *May be repeated for credit as content varies.*

### **195 Special Study Internship**

This course is usually taken by an upper-division student who wishes to complete his/her education with related work experience and is maintaining at least a C average. In addition to work experience (6–8 hours per week), outside research and a term project are usually required. Sponsorship by an anthropology faculty member and approval of the department chair is required.

### **197 Independent Study**

This course entails independent study or research for students whose needs are not met by courses available in the regular departmental offerings. The course usually requires the writing of a term project. Sponsorship by an anthropology faculty member and approval of the department chair is required.

### **199 Special Study—Honors**

This course is only available to upper-division majors with a B average or higher and entails independent study or research under the supervision of an anthropology faculty member. Approval of the department chair is required.